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SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 674th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 14 June 1994, at 3.30 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. GAMBARI (Nigeria)

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The meeting was called to order at 4.10 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. The agenda was adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID

2. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the draft report of the Special Committee to the resumed forty-eighth session of the General Assembly. All members of the Committee had had the opportunity to participate in the open-ended drafting group.

3. Mr. GOEL (India), Rapporteur, said that, in the light of the successful conclusion of the recent elections in South Africa, which had resulted in a non-racial Government of national unity, the draft report had focused on what lay ahead for South Africa. The report was encouraging, in that it contained no ideological controversies. It analysed the impact of apartheid, what had been done to counteract it and what remained to be done.

4. Section II of the report provided some detail on the transition and how the Transitional Executive Council had aided in the conduct of free and fair elections. Section III addressed areas of remaining socio-economic inequity and stressed the African National Congress Reconstruction and Development Programme, which was currently under consideration.

5. The Committee's most important activities had been the two recent pre- and post-election missions. The text of the report on those missions had been circulated to members and would be included in the report to the General Assembly. Members of the Committee had held forward-looking discussions with the Government on how the United Nations could encourage the new Government of South Africa.

6. The CHAIRMAN said that the mission of the Special Committee to South Africa conducted from 6 to 10 June 1994 had been very successful. Committee members had met with President Mandela, Deputy Presidents Mbeki and de Klerk, ministers, leaders of four political parties and religious, business, media and sports figures, as well as the Chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission and the diplomatic community. All members of the mission had engaged in serious discussion on the needs of South Africa, particularly development assistance to overcome the legacy of decades of apartheid.

7. It was a source of great satisfaction that the Committee's mission had been accomplished. He hoped that members would continue to keep the interests of South Africa in mind and would remain a core group within the General Assembly to mobilize international support for its reconstruction.

8. Mr. KATTI (Algeria) said that he was proud to see that the mission of the Committee had been accomplished, and he paid tribute to the Chairman's dedicated efforts towards that goal. The victory over apartheid was a victory of liberty, progress and justice.

9. Mr. AL-ATTAR (Syria) said that the forthcoming adoption of the Committee's final report was a major accomplishment, bringing a painful chapter in history to an end. The end of apartheid and its elimination from the political scene was an outstanding achievement. He paid tribute to the determination of all Committee members.

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.